

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02385 181927Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

SP-02 PRS-01 EUR-08 /041 W

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R 181724Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9605

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2385

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XA, CG, VT

SUBJECT: CATHOLIC CHURCH PROBLEMS IN ZAIRE

REF: ROME 1776; KINSHASA 1256

1. USING REFTELS AND OTHER MATERIALS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY KINSHASA, WE BRIEFED ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI FEB. 18 ON OUR ESTIMATE OF PRESENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND ITS POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CHRISTIANITY IN GENERAL. CASAROLI EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR OUR SHARING THIS INFORMATION WITH HIM. WHILE HE GENERALLY AGREED WITH EMBASSY ESTIMATE THAT THERE IS NO PRESENT DANGER TO CHURCH AND CHRISTIANITY IN ZAIRE, HE DOES SEE SERIOUS LONG-RANGE THREAT IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE. THIS WILL STEM MAINLY FROM INDOCTRINATION OF YOUTH, WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, MAY CAST THEM IN MOLD WHICH DOES NOT HARMONIZE WITH CHRISTIAN AND WESTERN TEACHINGS.

2. CASAROLI STRESSED THAT IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD, VATICAN WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO AVOID PROVOKING MOBUTU'S WRATH AGAINST CHURCH. BISHOPS' STATEMENTS OF JAN 15-16, HE SAID, WERE NECESSARY TO STATE CHURCH'S CASE CLEARLY. NOW THAT THEY ARE PUBLIC, HOPEFULLY ANY FURTHER CONFRONTATIONS CAN BE AVOIDED FOR THE TIMEBEING. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CATHOLICS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ROME02385  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750058-0298  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 52  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 ROME 1776, 75 KINSHASA 1256  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CATHOLIC CHURCH PROBLEMS IN ZAIRE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, XA, CG, VT  
**To:** STATE KINSHASA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006